Legislation on banning the Smoking Advertisement

1525. SHRI J. P. GOYAL: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that nearly 8 million Indians die pre-maturely every year from cancer due to use of tobacco;

(b) whether Government propose to bring forward a legislation banning cigarette advertisements and smoking in public places to combat the national scourage of 'tobacco epidemic'; and

(c) if so, what are the views of the Government in this regard and what are the hurdles in the way of enacting an effective legislation in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (KUMARI SAROJ KHAPARDE): (a) It is estimated that between 6 to 10 lakh deaths in India are caused due to tobacco consumption in various forms including deaths due to tobacco-related cancers, cardio-vascular diseases, chronic obstructive lung diseases etc.

(b) and (c) The existing legislation namely "The cigarettes (Regulation of Production, Supply and Distribution) Act, 1975 provides for incorporating a specified warning on cigarette packets/ cartons and in cigarette advertisements. Since regulation of other tobacco products such as bidis, cigars etc., falls within the purview of State Governments they have been urged to get a resolution passed in the State legislatures for adoption of a package of an anti-tobacco measures to enable the Parliament to enact a legislation.

Disappointing Services of Air India

1526. SHRI J. P. GOYAL:
SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Air India has lodged protest against the findings of the International Foundation of Airline Passengers Association that it is one of the ten most disappointing airlines in the world;

(b) if so, when;

(c) whether the International Foundation of Airline Passengers Association has agreed to review its findings and made amends; and

(d) if so, on what conditions?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE AND THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI MOTI LAL VORA): (a) to (d) In a recent survey conducted by the International Foundation of Airlines Passengers Association in Geneva, Air-India had been listed among the World's ten most disappointing airlines. This report was first published by the New York Times and also appeared in some Indian newspapers.

In an effort to ascertain the parameters under which the survey was undertaken, Air India took up this matter with Mr. Geoffrey Lipman, Executive Director of the International Foundation of Airlines Passengers Association in Geneva in November-December, 1987. The Executive Director has categorically stated that reference to Air India was incorrect.

Inquiry Committee on Central Government Hospitals in Delhi

1527. SHRI J. P. GOYAL:
SHRI RASHEED MASOOD:

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has since received the report of the inquiry committee regarding Central Government hospitals in the Capital;

(b) if so, what suggestions and recommendations have been made thereon; and